

INDIANA AML SITE 2083
SUGAR RIDGE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA 2

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Abstract

The Sugar Ridge Fish & Wildlife Area 2 project was selected for the Mid-Continent Region Award as it reclaimed significant safety and environmental problems, employed innovative use of technology and effective geomorphic design, contained special considerations, and benefited the community. The project included the elimination of a 3,500 foot long, 25-35 foot high, dangerous highwall, almost 45,000 cubic yards of coarse refuse, acid mine drainage, an acid pit, and hazardous structures. The project included the innovative use of technology for the bathymetric survey of the abandoned mine pit bottom. It also utilized effective geomorphic design for the earthwork. The disposal of the coarse refuse into the bottom of the abandoned mine pit provided on-site construction difficulty as the pit was continuously receiving water from another abandoned mine pit 3,800 feet away via an abandoned underground mine. Special and unique considerations included a construction in a floodway permit from the INDNR Division of Water for having 1.4 square miles of drainage area and the coordination with State Fish & Wildlife non-game personnel to relocate Eastern box turtles. The project eliminated the safety and environmental problems while providing enhanced recreational and agricultural opportunities for citizens. This project increased public awareness of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and exceeded the spirit and intent of SMCRA for its wide public impact and multitude of issues solved.